

# GEOTECHNICAL & MORPHOLOGICAL PROPERTIES OF KUANTAN BAUXITE

DR. MUZAMIR HASAN  
DIRECTOR FOR EARTH RESOURCES RESEARCH &  
MANAGEMENT  
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA PAHANG



NATIONAL AWARENESS WORKSHOP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SOLID BULK CARGOES (IMSBC) CODE

25-28 APRIL, 2016  
THE ZENITH HOTEL, KUANTAN



Universiti  
Malaysia  
PAHANG

Engineering • Technology • Creativity

# DR. MUZAMIR BIN HASAN

Director of Centre for Earth Resources Research & Management (CERRM) , UMP

Head Department (Geotechnical & Infrastructure Engineering) 2013 – 2015

Senior Lecturer Faculty of Civil Engineering & Earth Resources, UMP

Visiting Fellow at Faculty of Engineering, Yamaguchi University, Japan

- B.Eng. (Civil) (Hons), 2005
- M.Eng. (Civil-Geotechnics), 2006
- Ph.D (Civil Engineering), 2013
- Member of Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM)
- Member of Institution of Engineers Malaysia (IEM)
- Member of Malaysian Geotechnical Society (MGS)
- Member of International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE)
- Committee Member of Technical Committee (TC) 105 Geo-Mechanics from Micro to Macro ISSMGE



# GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING

Geotechnical engineering is the branch of civil engineering concerned with the engineering behavior of earth materials. Geotechnical engineering is important in civil engineering, but also has applications in military, mining, petroleum and other engineering disciplines that are concerned with construction occurring on the surface or within the ground. **Geotechnical engineering uses principles of soil mechanics and rock mechanics to investigate subsurface conditions and materials; determine the relevant physical/mechanical and chemical properties of these materials; evaluate stability of natural slopes and man-made soil deposits; assess risks posed by site conditions; design earthworks and structure foundations; and monitor site conditions, earthwork and foundation construction.**

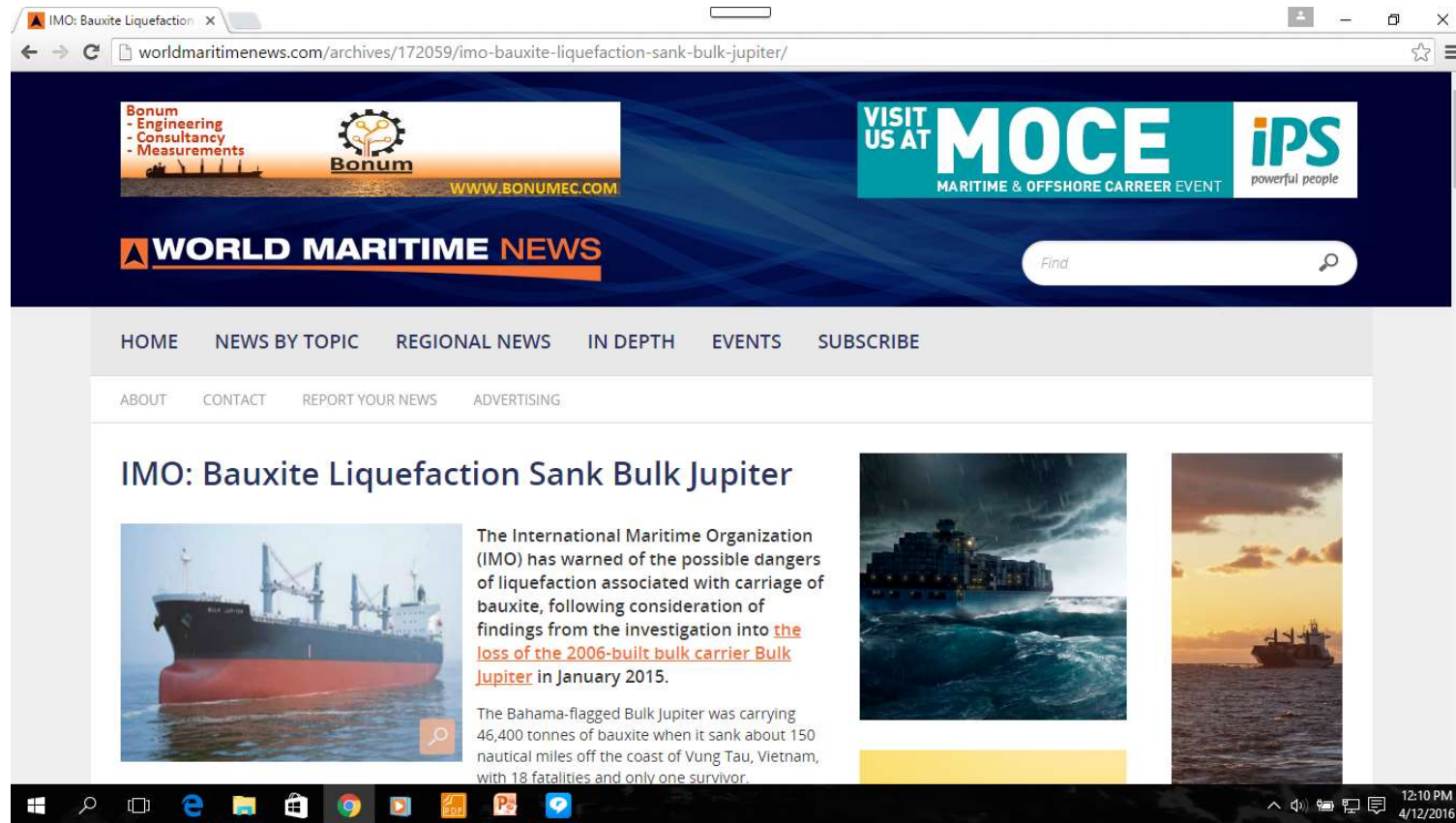
Terzaghi, K., Peck, R.B. and Mesri, G. (1996), *Soil Mechanics in Engineering Practice* 3rd Ed., John Wiley & Sons, Inc.



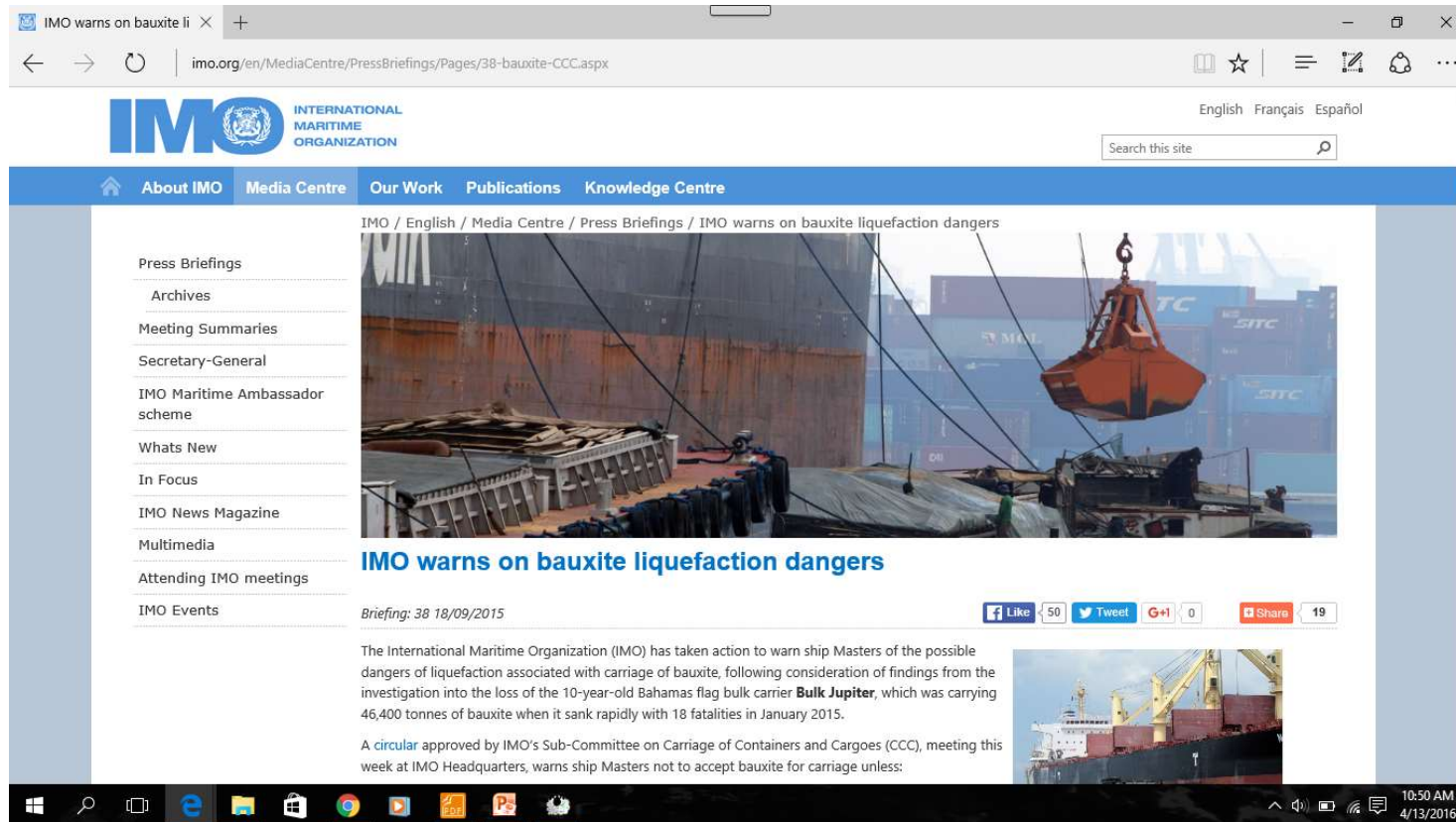
Universiti  
Malaysia  
PAHANG

Engineering • Technology • Creativity

# MAIN ISSUE



# MAIN ISSUE

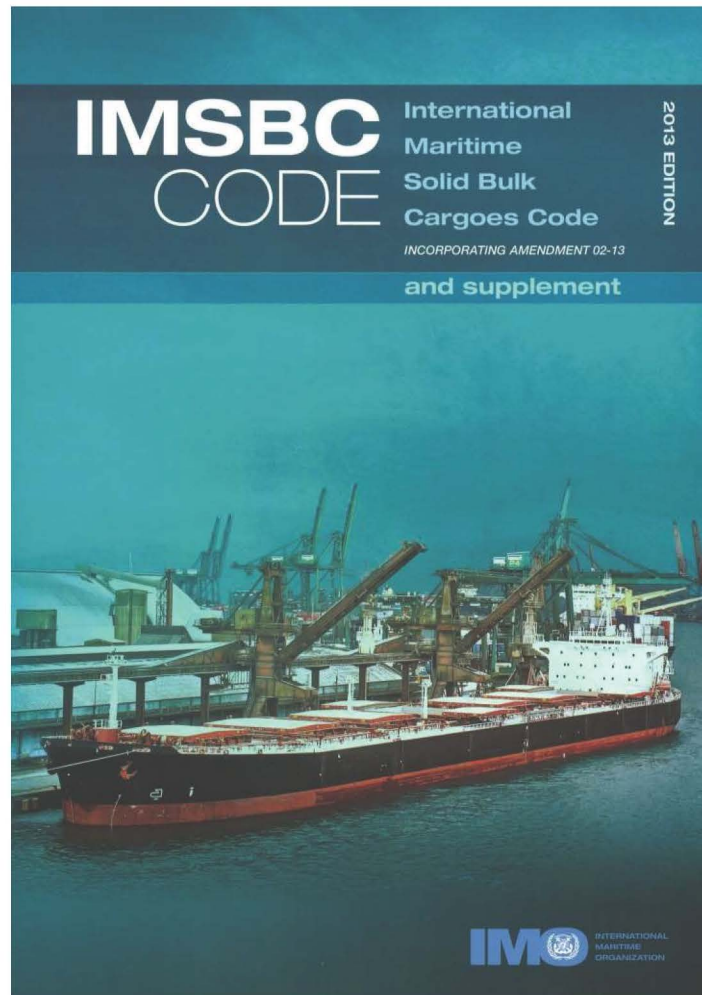


The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the IMO website. The address bar shows the URL: [imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/38-bauxite-CCC.aspx](http://imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/38-bauxite-CCC.aspx). The page features the IMO logo and navigation links: About IMO, Media Centre, Our Work, Publications, and Knowledge Centre. A sidebar on the left lists various media resources. The main content area displays a large image of a ship's deck with a crane lifting a container, followed by the headline "IMO warns on bauxite liquefaction dangers". Below the headline, it states the briefing date as 38 18/09/2015. The text explains that the IMO has taken action to warn ship Masters of the possible dangers of liquefaction associated with the carriage of bauxite, following an investigation into the loss of the bulk carrier **Bulk Jupiter**. It also mentions that a circular approved by the IMO's Sub-Committee on Carriage of Containers and Cargoes (CCC) meeting this week at IMO Headquarters, warns ship Masters not to accept bauxite for carriage unless:

# LIQUEFACTION

“Liquefaction occurs when a cargo (which may not appear visibly wet) has a level of moisture in between particles. During a voyage, the ship movement may cause the cargo to liquefy and become viscous and fluid, which can lead to cargo flowing with the roll of the ship and potentially causing a dangerous list and sudden capsizes of the vessel. Special consideration and precautions should be taken when loading a cargo which may liquefy. “





# IMSBC CODE

## BAUXITE

### DESCRIPTION

A brownish, yellow claylike and earthy mineral.

Moisture content: 0% to 10%.

Insoluble in water.

### CHARACTERISTICS

ANGLE OF REPOSE	BULK DENSITY (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	STOWAGE FACTOR (m <sup>3</sup> /t)
Not applicable	1190 to 1389	0.72 to 0.84
SIZE	CLASS	GROUP
70% to 90% lumps: 2.5 mm to 500 mm 10% to 30% powder	Not applicable	C



Universiti  
Malaysia  
PAHANG

Engineering • Technology • Creativity



# IMSBC CODE

Clients will be aware that bauxite is classed as a Group C cargo in the International Maritime Solid Bulk Cargoes (IMSBC) Code i.e. neither liable to liquefy (Group A) nor to possess chemical hazards (Group B). Bauxite is described as ‘a brownish, yellow claylike and earthy mineral, insoluble in water.’

In order to be classified as Group C bauxite must have properties within the following parameters:

Moisture content between 0% to 10%.

Size - 70% to 90% lumps, varying between 2.5 mm and 500 mm and 10% to 30% powder.

Section 2.1 of the IMSBC Code, states:

“Many **fine-particled** cargoes, if possessing a sufficiently **high moisture content**, are liable to flow. Thus any damp or wet cargo containing a proportion of fine particles should be tested for flow characteristics prior to loading”.



# LIQUEFACTION

Liquefaction of mineral ores resulting in cargo shifting and loss of stability has been a major cause of marine casualties for many decades. In cargoes loaded with too high a moisture content, liquefaction may occur without warning at any time during the voyage. Some cargoes have liquefied and caused catastrophic shifting of cargo almost immediately upon departure from the load port whilst others have liquefied after several weeks of apparently uneventful sailing.



# EFFECTS OF LIQUEFACTION CAUSED BY THE EARTHQUAKE ON APARTMENT BUILDINGS IN NIIGATA



Universiti  
Malaysia  
PAHANG

Engineering • Technology • Creativity

# NIIGATA EATHQUAKE 1964

There were 3,534 houses destroyed and a further 11,000 were damaged.[1] This level of damage is explained by the influence of poor sub-soil conditions. Most of the lower part of the city of Niigata is built on recent deltaic deposits from the Shinano and Agano rivers, mainly consisting of unconsolidated sand. **Shaking during the earthquake caused liquefaction with instantaneous compaction and formation of many sand volcanoes.** Maps of areas of subsidence and sand volcanoes were found to match closely with old maps of the position of former river channels. Subsidence of up to 140 cm was measured over wide areas associated with the liquefaction. In one area of apartment buildings built on reclaimed land by the Shinona River, most of the blocks became inclined, one of them being completely overturned. This was despite relatively low levels of ground acceleration recorded by strong motion accelerographs placed in one of these buildings.



# LIQUEFACTION



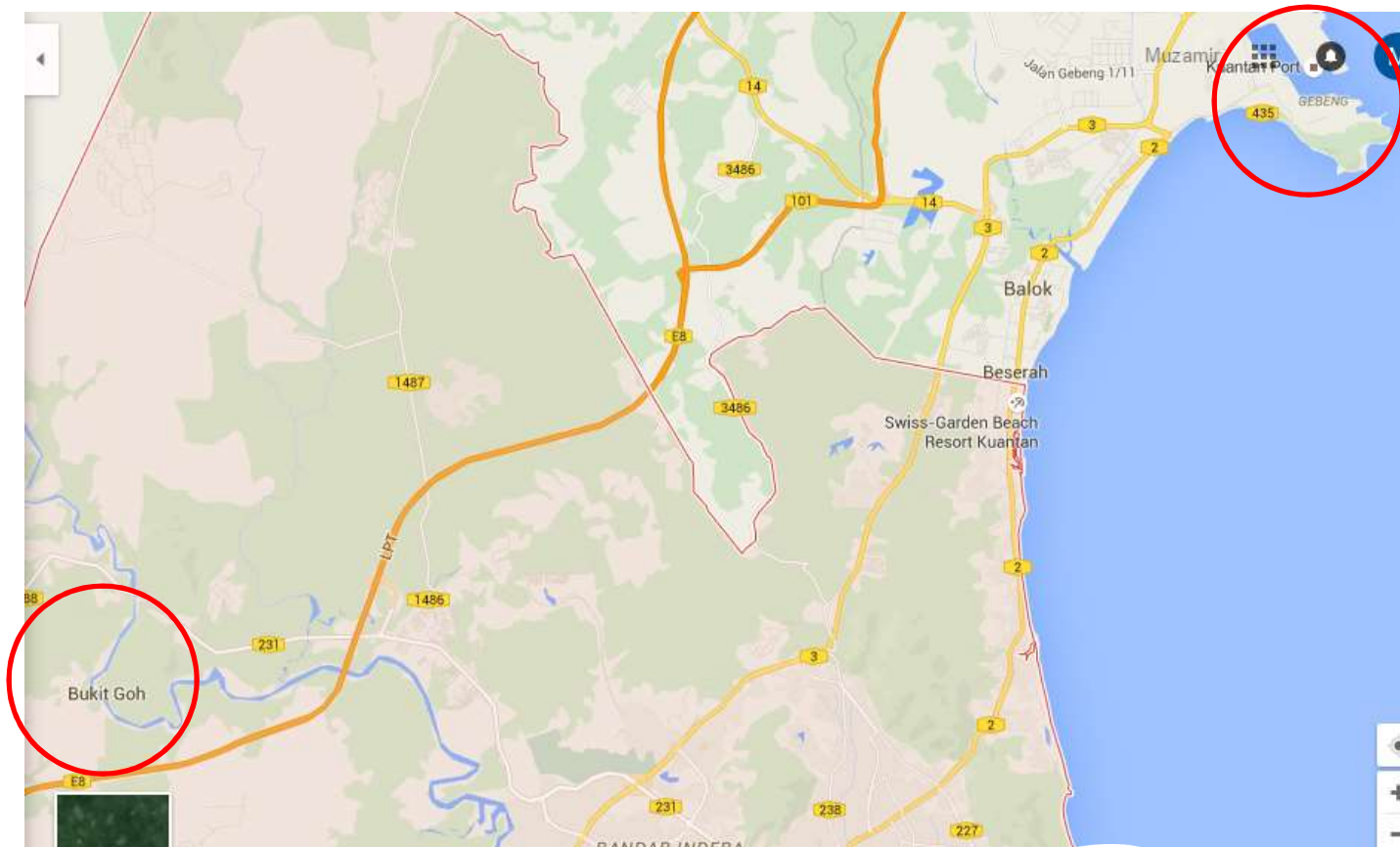


# LIQUEFACTION





# CASE STUDY



Universiti  
Malaysia  
**PAHANG**  
Engineering • Technology • Creativity

# BAUXITE SAMPLES



Universiti  
Malaysia  
PAHANG

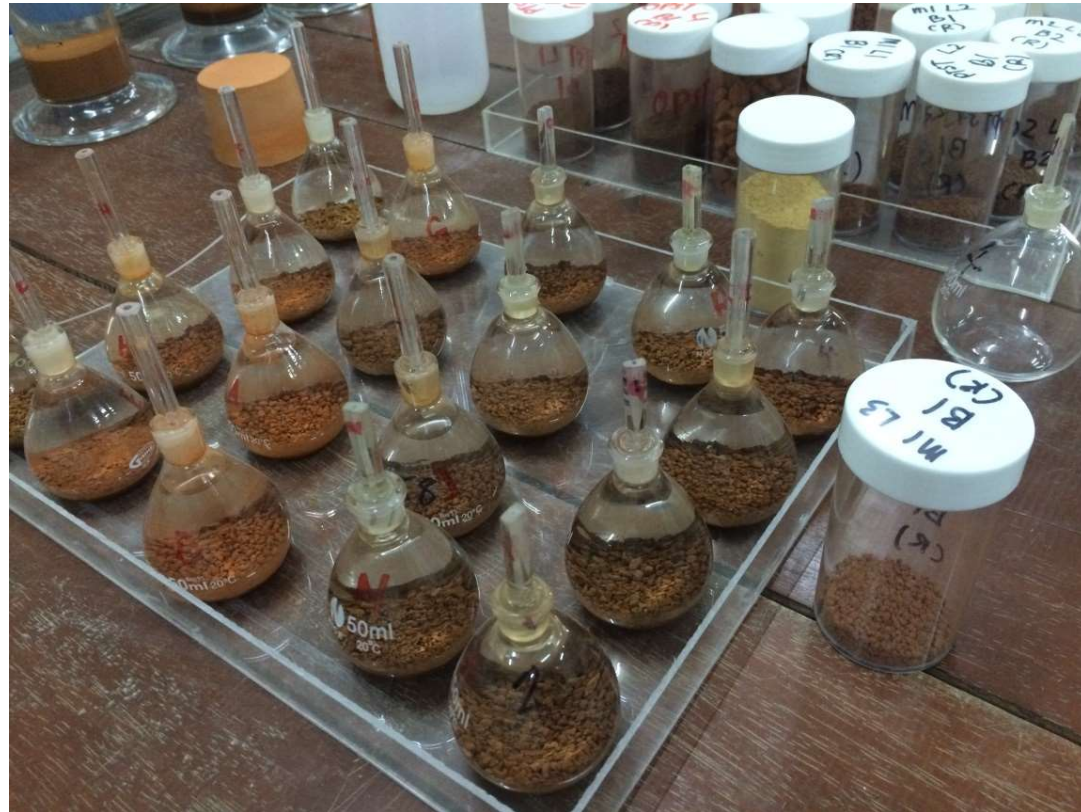
Engineering • Technology • Creativity

# BAUXITE SAMPLES





# BAUXITE SAMPLES



Universiti  
Malaysia  
PAHANG

Engineering • Technology • Creativity

# BAUXITE SAMPLES



Universiti  
Malaysia  
**PAHANG**  
Engineering • Technology • Creativity

# BAUXITE SAMPLES



Universiti  
Malaysia  
PAHANG

Engineering • Technology • Creativity





Universiti  
Malaysia  
PAHANG

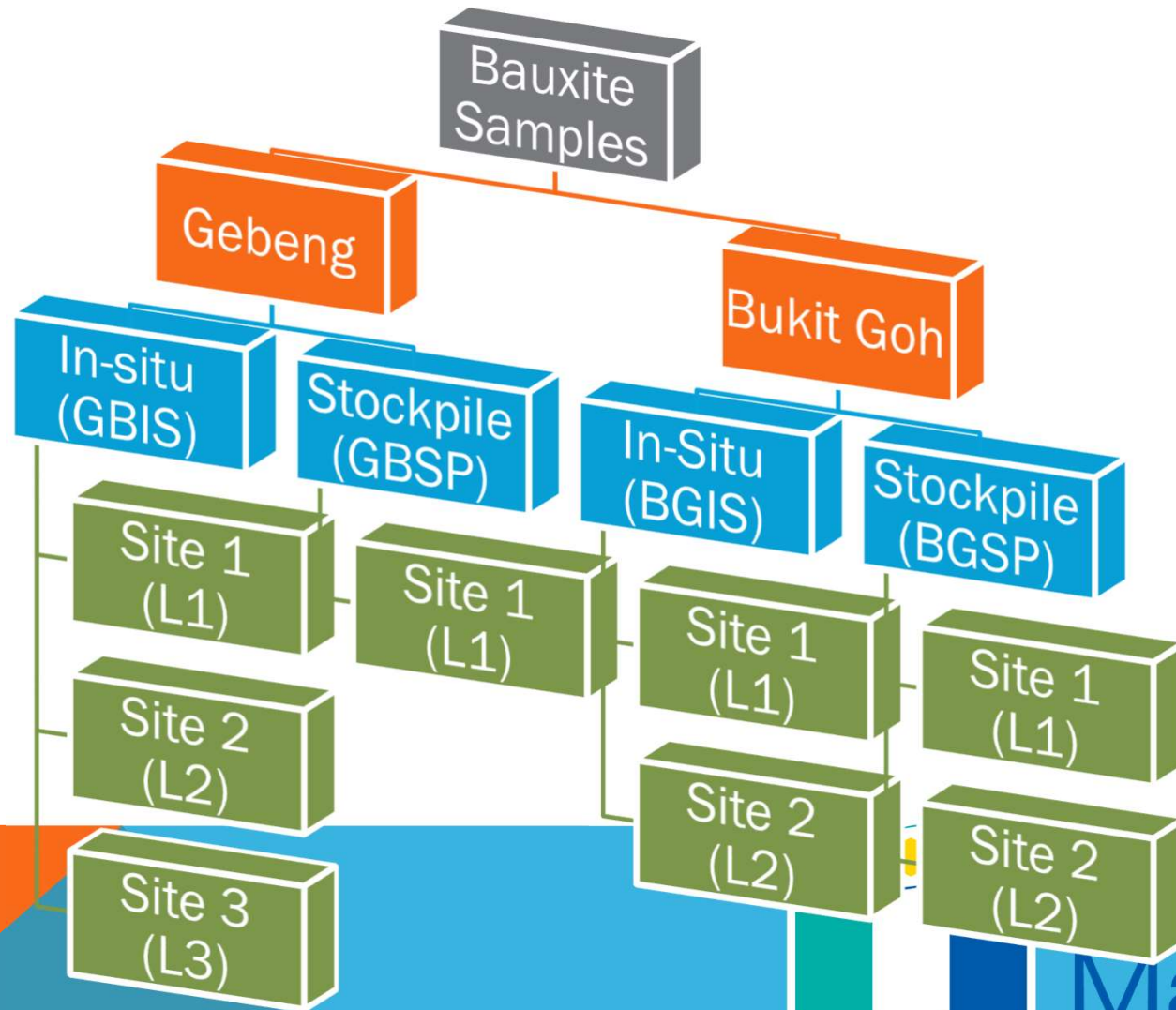
Engineering • Technology • Creativity







# SAMPLES



UMP

Universiti  
Malaysia  
PAHANG

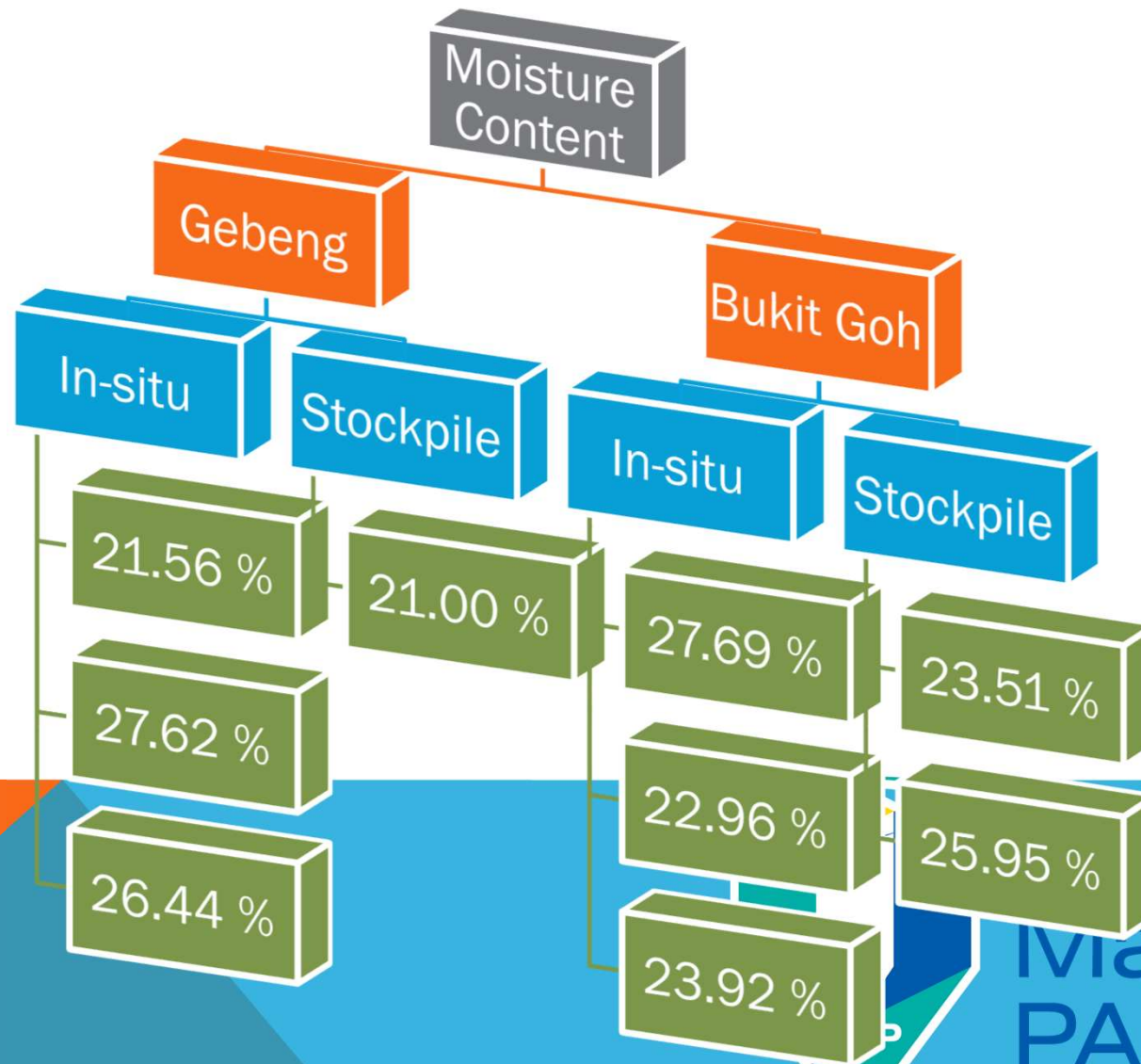
Engineering • Technology • Creativity

# MOISTURE CONTENT (OVEN DRY) – “OVEN HOT”

## LOCATION: BUKIT GOH (IN-SITU)

Sample No. :                      LOC1 BUCKET#1)		1	2
Mass of wet soil + container (m2)	g	587.05	573.79
Mass of dry soil + container (m3)	g	510.84	496.71
Mass of container (m1)	g	236.92	217.11
Mass of moisture (m2 - m3)	g	76.21	77.08
Mass of dry soil (m3 - m1)	g	273.92	279.60
Moisture Content, $w = \frac{(m2 - m3)}{(m3 - m1)}$	%	27.82	27.57
Average moisture content w,	%	27.69	

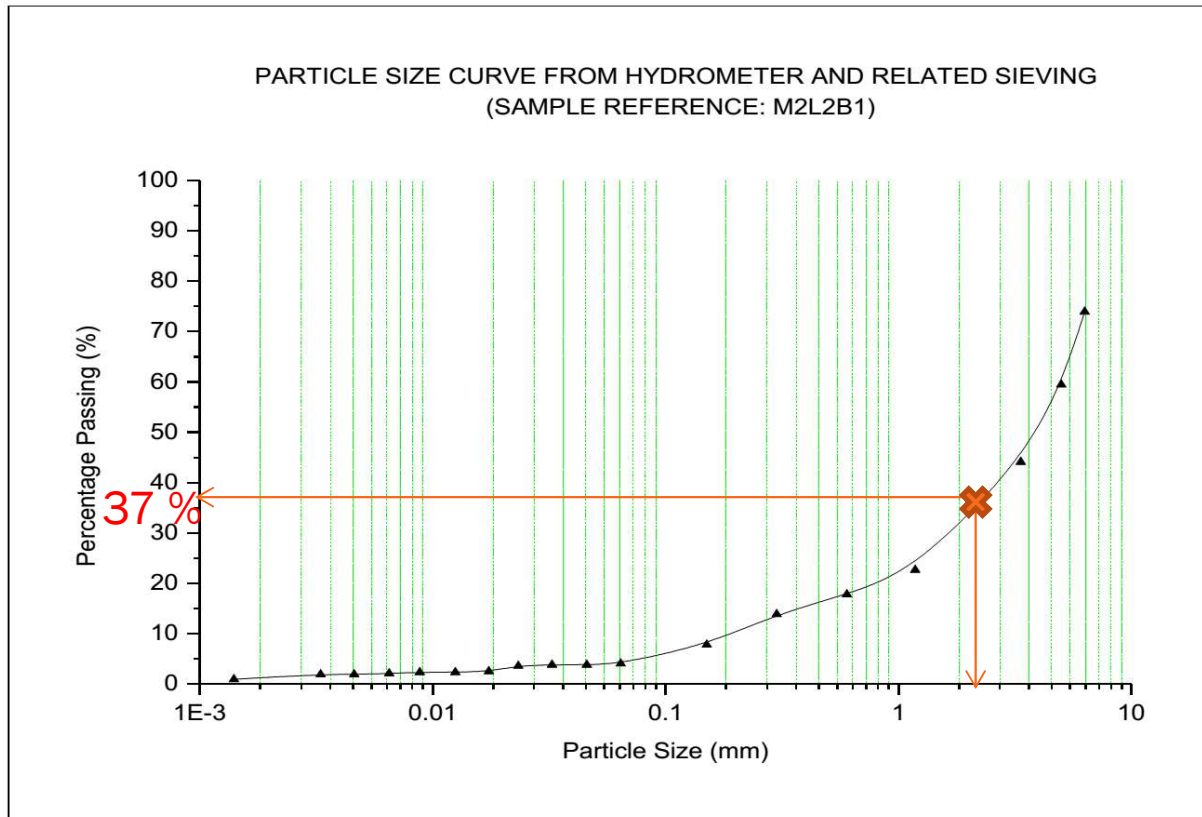
# MOISTURE CONTENT





# PARTICLE SIZE ANALYSIS

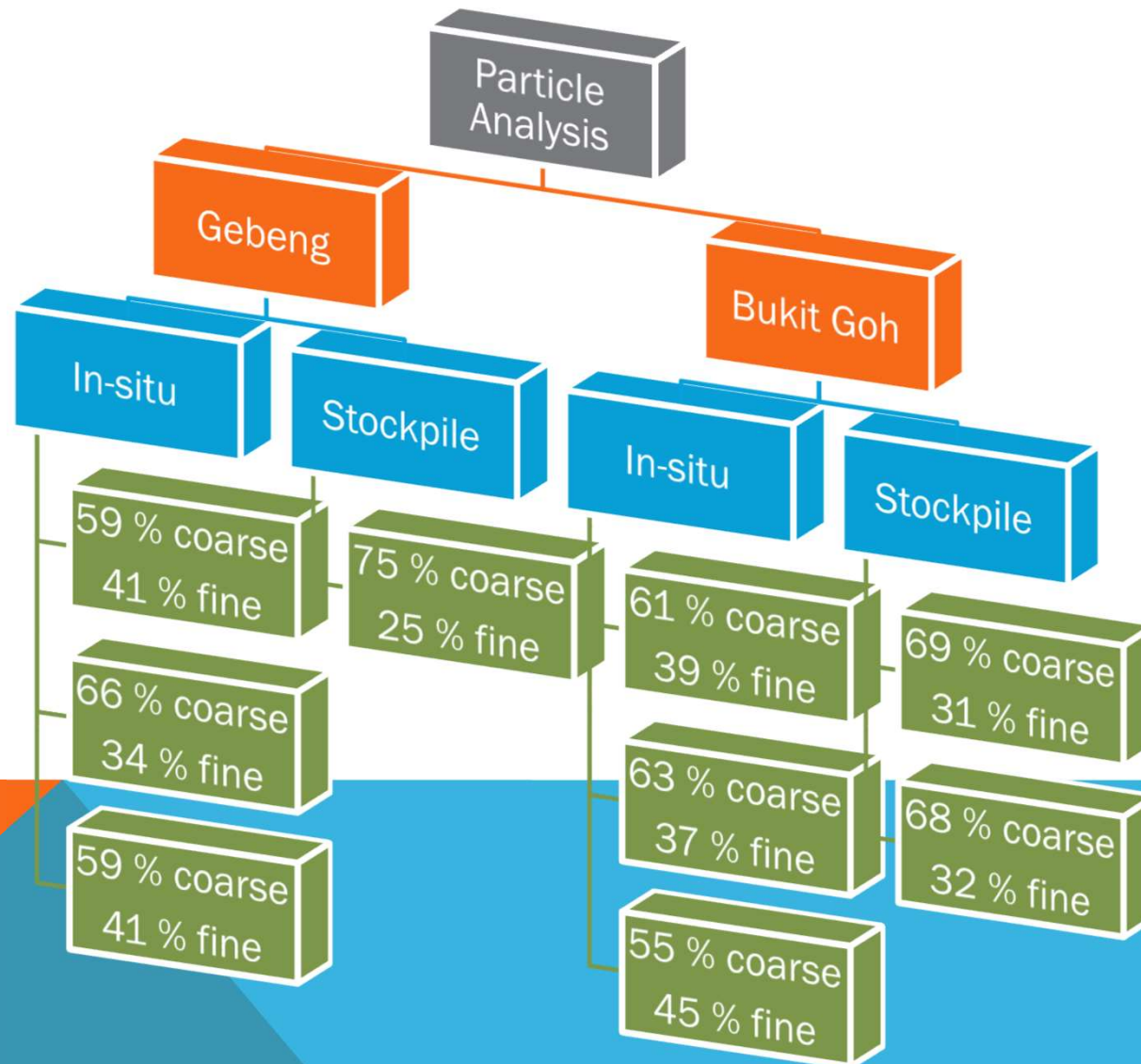
## LOCATION: BUKIT GOH (IN-SITU)



Universiti  
Malaysia  
PAHANG

Engineering • Technology • Creativity

# PARTICLE SIZE ANALYSIS



# SPECIFIC GRAVITY

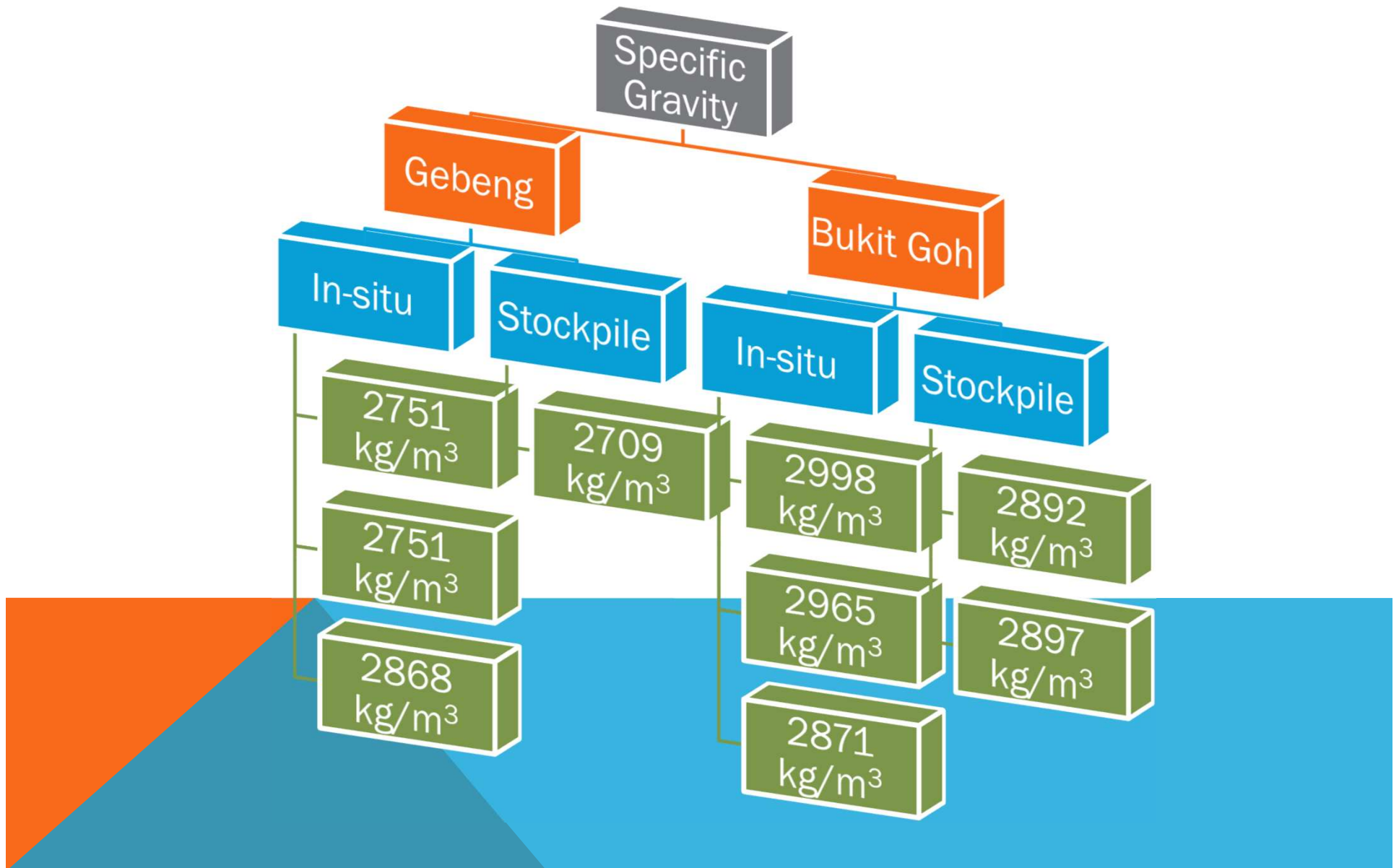
## LOCATION: GEBENG (IN-SITU)

Item	Description		M1 L1 B1		M1 L2 B1	
			A	B	C	D
1	Density bottle no.					
2	Weight of density bottle	g	22.11	19.79	21.54	22.04
3	Weight of density bottle + Stopper	g	27.33	24.84	26.72	27.02
4	Weight of density bottle + Stopper + Dry Soil	g	34.88	32.39	34.30	34.60
5	Weight of density bottle + Stopper + Dry Soil + Water	g	83.31	81.72	82.95	82.34
6	Weight of density bottle + Stopper + Water	g	78.49	76.93	78.13	77.51
7	Weight of Dry Soil	g	7.55	7.55	7.58	7.58
8	Weight of Water	g	51.16	52.09	51.41	50.49
9	Weight of Dry Soil + Water	g	48.43	49.33	48.65	47.74
10	Specific Gravity	Mg/m <sup>3</sup>	2.77	2.74	2.75	2.76
11	Average Specific Gravity	Mg/m <sup>3</sup>	2.751		2.751	



Universiti  
Malaysia  
**PAHANG**  
Engineering • Technology • Creativity

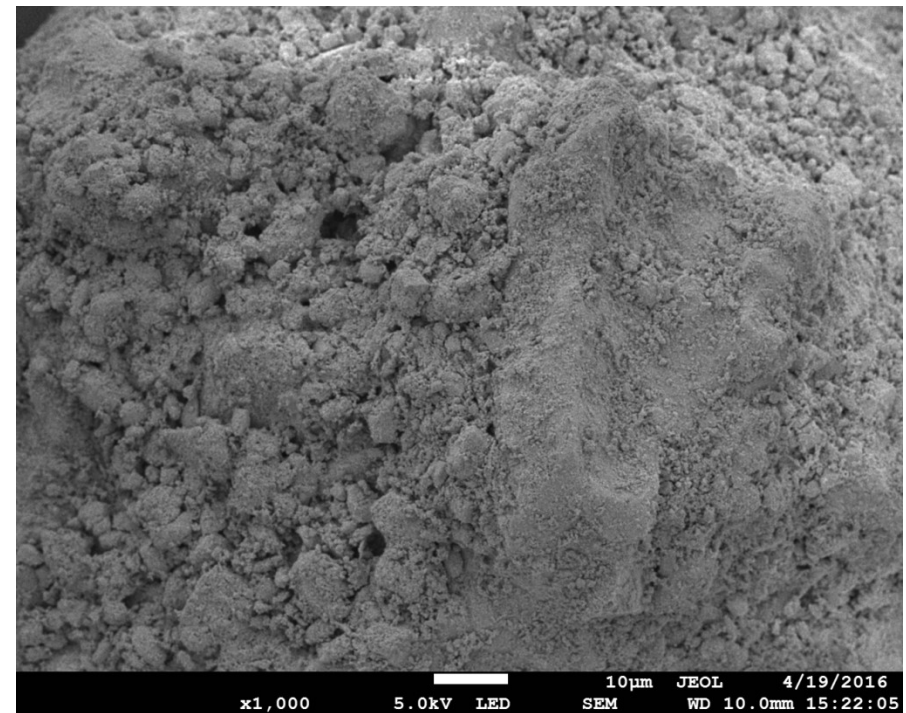
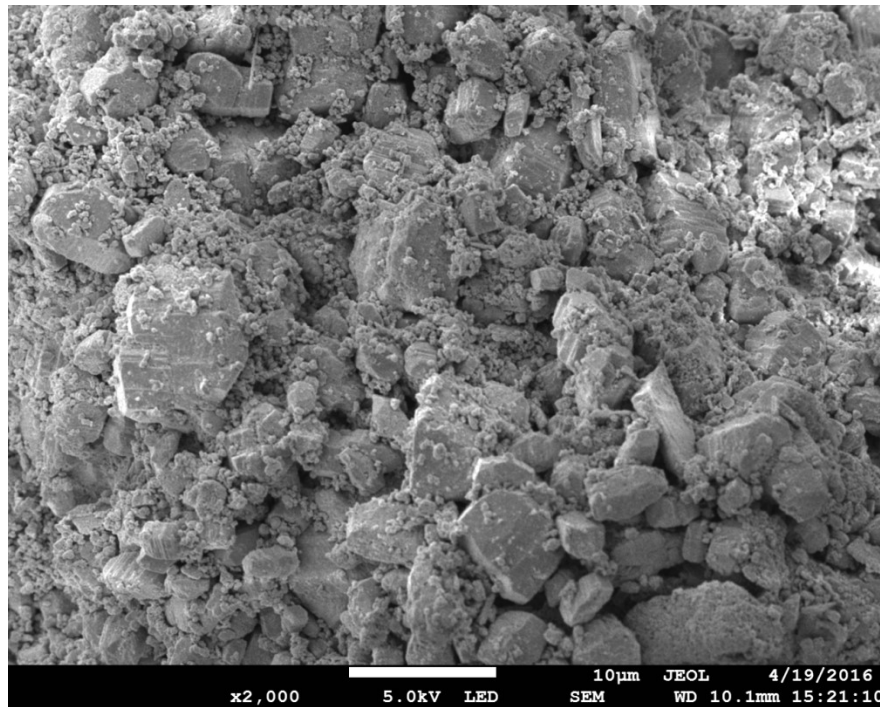
# SPECIFIC GRAVITY





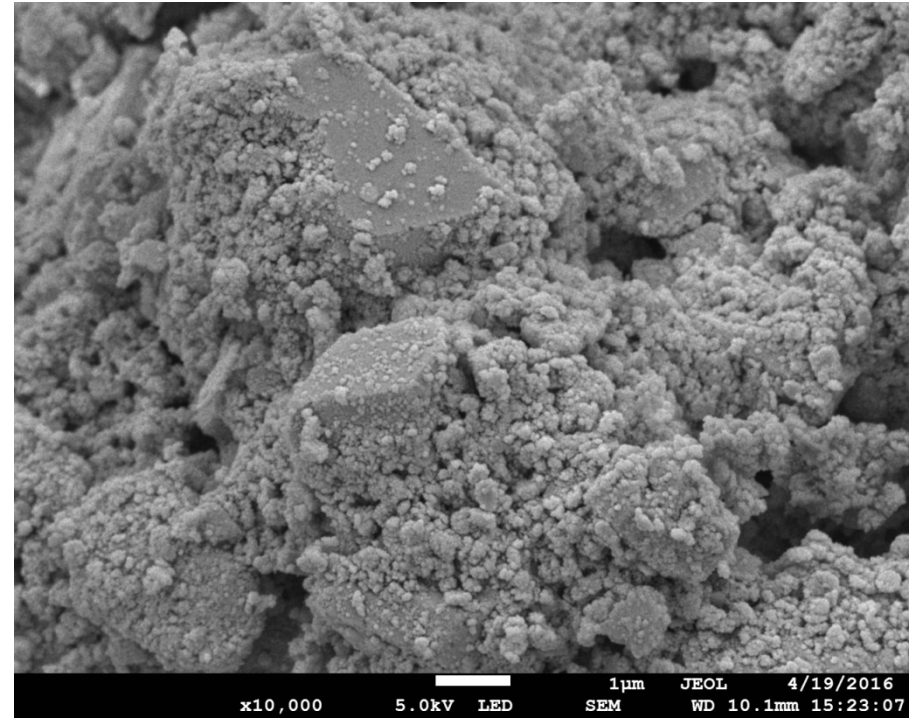
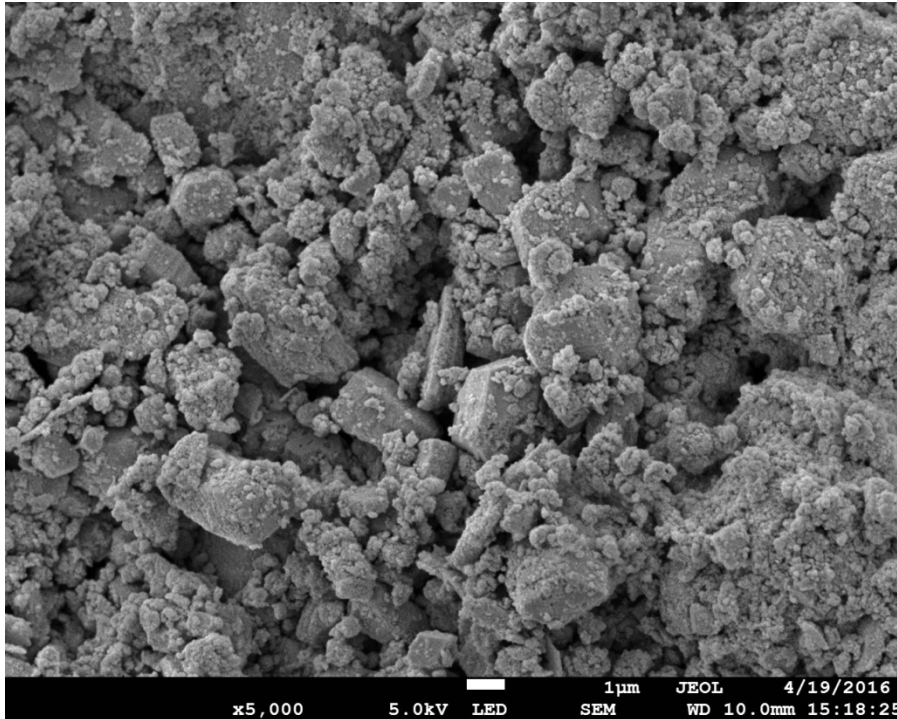
# MORPHOLOGICAL – SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPE

GEBENG



# MORPHOLOGICAL – SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPE

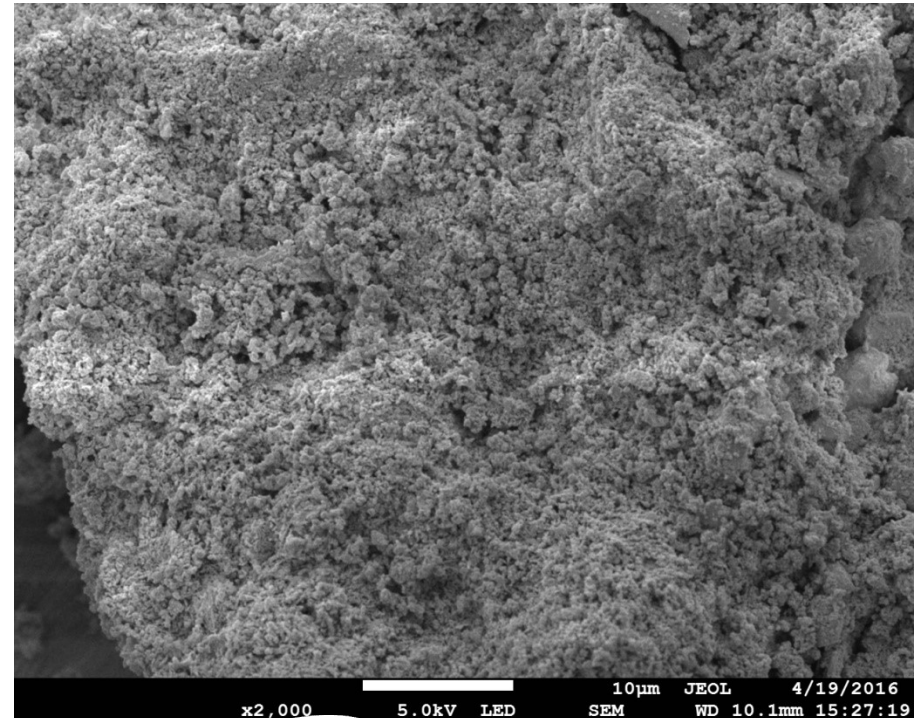
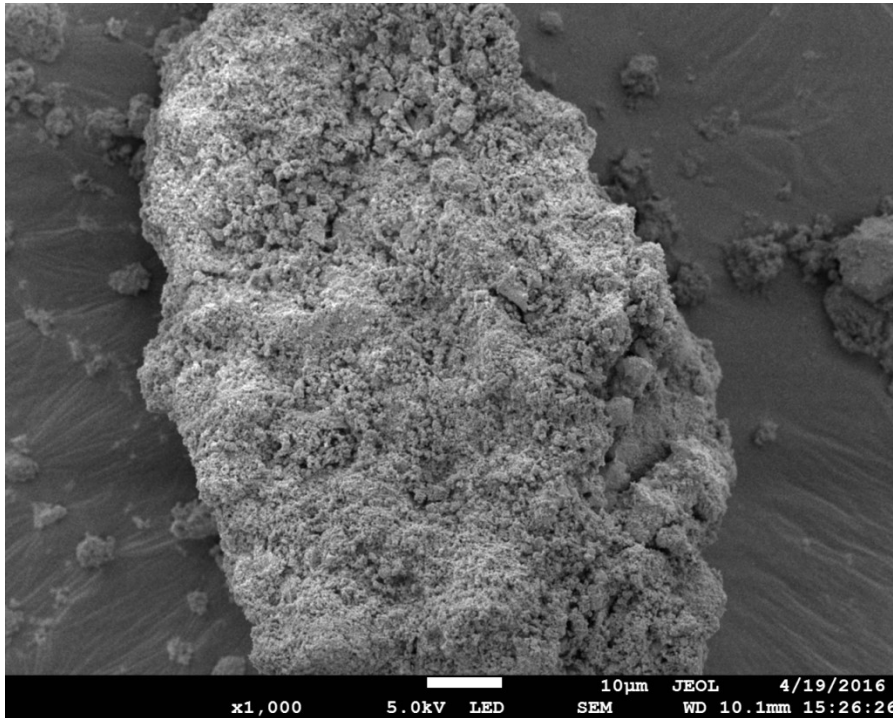
GEBENG





# MORPHOLOGICAL – SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPE

BUKIT GOH

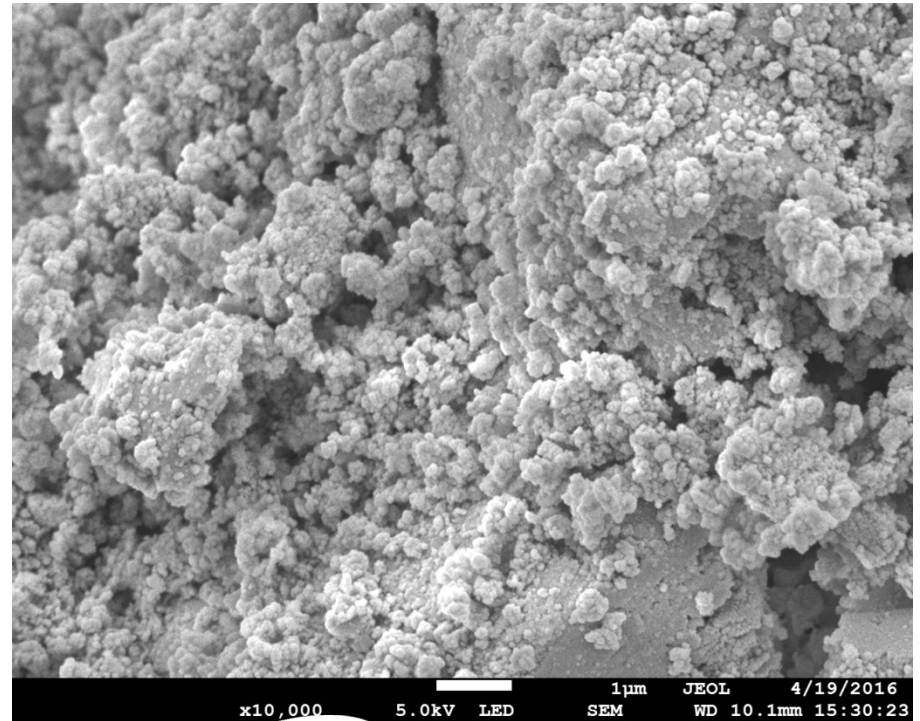
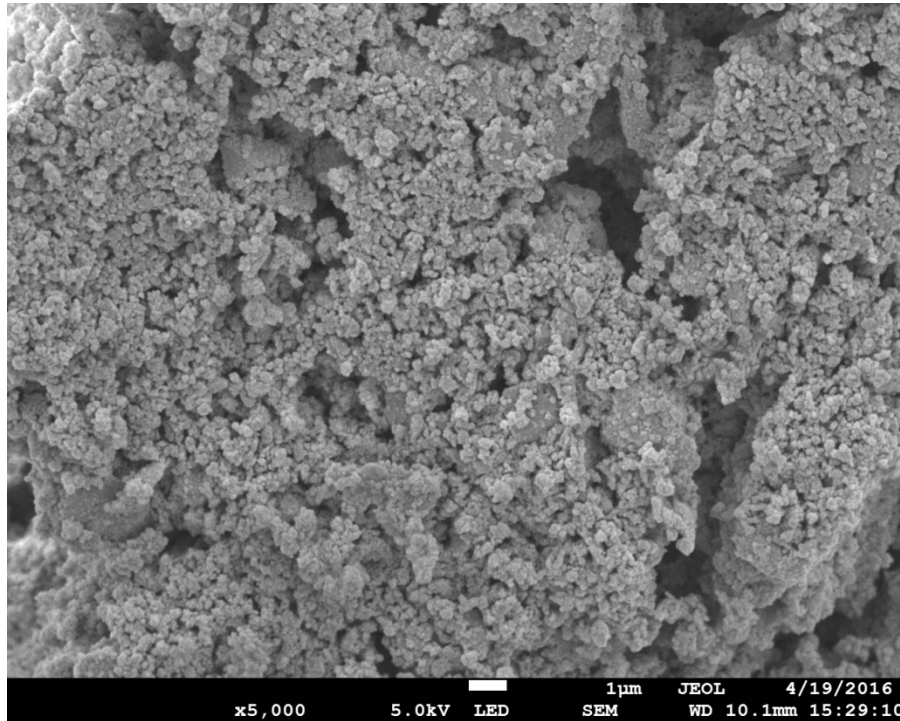


Universiti  
Malaysia  
PAHANG

Engineering • Technology • Creativity

# MORPHOLOGICAL – SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPE

BUKIT GOH

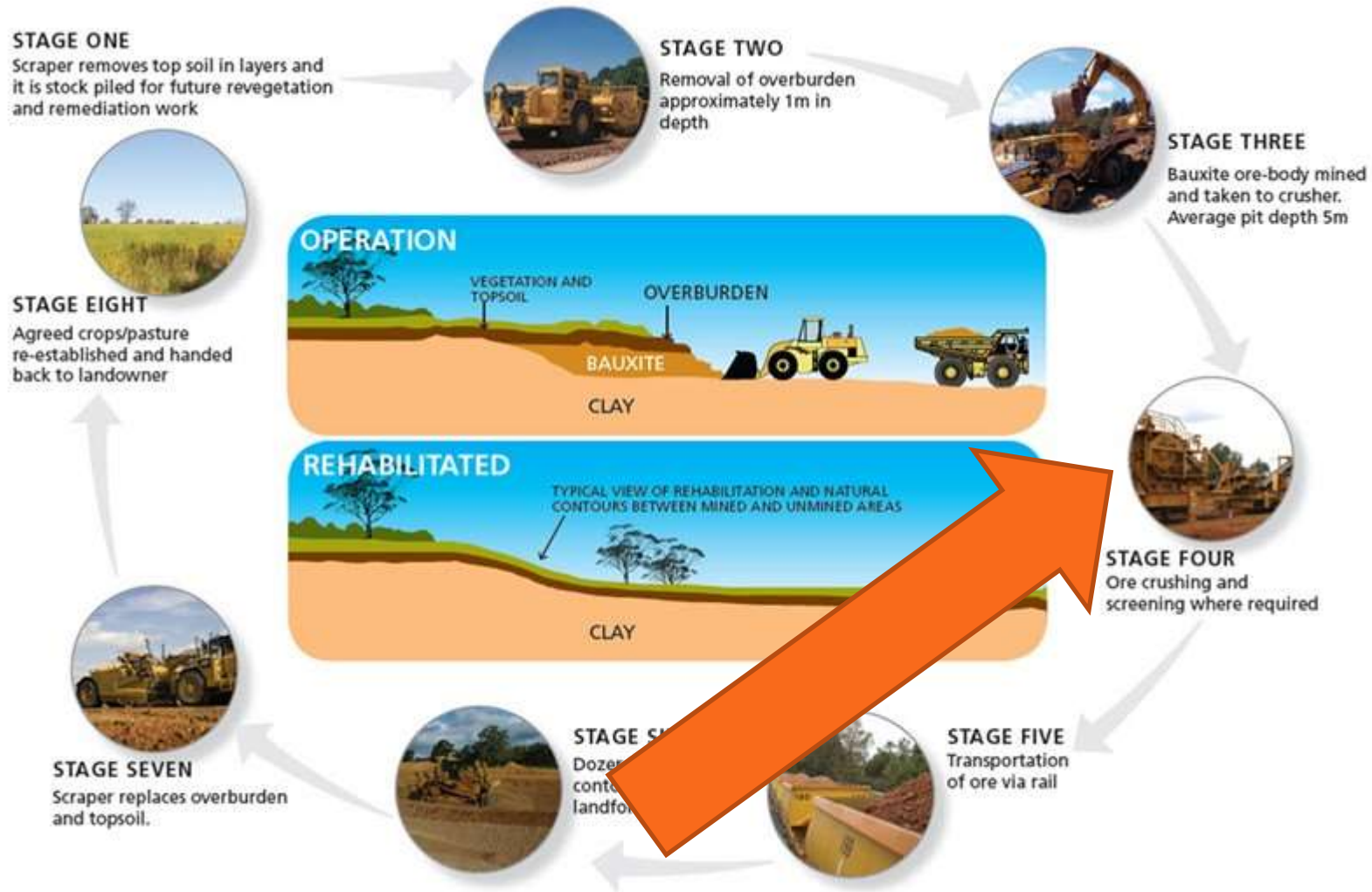


Universiti  
Malaysia  
PAHANG

Engineering • Technology • Creativity



# BAUXITE MINING



<http://www.bajv.com.au/our-company/company-profile/bauxite-mining/>

UMP

University of  
PAHANG  
Engineering • Technology • Creativity

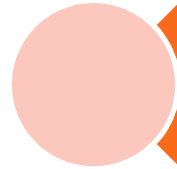
# BENEFICIATION

Unlike the base metal ores, bauxite does not require complex processing because most of the bauxite mined is of an acceptable grade. Ore quality can be improved by relatively simple and inexpensive processes for removing clay, known as “beneficiation”, which include washing, wet screening and mechanical or manual sorting. Beneficiating ore also reduces the amount of material that needs to be transported and processed at the refinery. However, the benefits of beneficiating need to be weighed against the amount of energy and water used in the process and the management of the fine wastes produced.

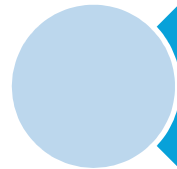
Source: <http://bauxite.world-aluminium.org/mining/process.html>



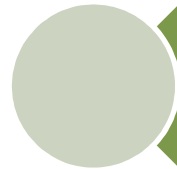
# SUMMARY



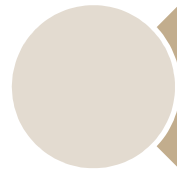
Moisture content for Kuantan Bauxite in average is  $> 20\%$



Kuantan Bauxite in average is consist of  $> 30\%$  fine material (powder) and  $< 70\%$  coarse material (lumps)



From SEM test, image analysis prove that there were a lot of fine particles in bauxite samples



In accordance to IMSBC Code, at this current condition, Kuantan Bauxite cannot be categorized as Group C.



Universiti  
Malaysia  
PAHANG

Engineering • Technology • Creativity



# CONCLUSION

- Formation of soil from rock was from chemical and/or mechanical weathering processes. In this case, rock & bauxite ore did weathered and contribute to the existence of powder (fine particles).
- Kuantan bauxite's % of fine particles is higher than the maximum limit set by IMSBC Code.
- Due to high fine particles (which are soluble), it will absorb much more water compared to granular particles.
- The increase of fine particles will resulted in increase in moisture content.
- To solve this problem, raw bauxite must go through “beneficiation” process to reduce/eliminate fine particles (powder).



Universiti  
Malaysia  
PAHANG

Engineering • Technology • Creativity

# Thank You

